wide and it will be easy for transhipment of goods. I request that the need for a road or a canal should not be glided over. I should at least be given that assurance.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That question will be considered.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Then, for the present, I would withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn

Cut motion No. 3

Lack of proper means of communication in Edavilangu

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,99,085 for Communication—Original Works by Re. 1.*

(To draw attention of the Government to the absolute lack of proper means of communication in the village of Edavilangu.)

Sir, my idea in tabling this motion is to bring to the notice of the Government the absolute lack of communication in Edavilangu. I do not think I can be satisfied by any assurances of the sort which the Chief Engineer has been giving to my hon'ble friend. The peculiar geographical position of this village is such that there communications do not exist at all. On one side you have got Cranganur and on the other side, British India where the District Board happens to have a few roads. As far as Cranganur is concerned the difficulty is "no funds". People there are in the position of being as almost on an island with absolutely no means of either travelling inside or going outside. This is a place which is seldom visited by any Head of Department because of the difficulty of access to it. That is one of the reasons, perhaps, why no money seems to be spent for improving communications. No money is spent there by the Public Works Department unless, of course, the hon'ble member in charge of Public Works says that he has constructed a big bridge costing about Rs. 9,000 last year. I concede that they have constructed a bridge. But then, for the bridge to be used properly there should be other means of communication. Then there is an absolute paucity of Panchayat roads even. The amounts spent for the maintenance of communication in the Edavilangu village is Rs. 180. Now I ask you, is this what you call providing with ordinary means of communication for one village, which is in a remarkably disadvantageous position? It forms a part of the Mukundapuram Taluk. This is a matter for more sympathetic consideration by the Public Works

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department and I request that some method might be found out by the Department to improve communications there.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians—Cranganur):* Mr. President, Sir, in rising to support this motion I cannot but agree with my hon'ble friend in the fact that the Government has been for the last so many years showing a sort of step-motherly attitude towards the small village of Edavilangu. This small village is eclipsed on the eastern and southern sides by the Cranganur Taluk, and surrounded by the Arabian see on the west and British Malabar on the North and I am sorry to say that this village is totally ignored. For the past twenty years it has been existing like that without any means of communication, without any means for the people there to go outside or for people from outside to reach that village. It is perhaps on account of that that none of the responsible officers of the State has ever attempted to visit that small village at least once. I don't remember that any responsible officer having ever visited that village during the past 20 years.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The present Secretary to Government, while he was the Diwan Peishkar, has visited that part.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians—Cranganur):* It is because nobody has gone there that the village has been ignored for all these years. This has been brought to the notice of the Government for more than half a dozen times, if I remember correct. I have tabled a cut motion, motion No. 16, with the object of impressing upon the Government the necessity for deepening and making navigable that portion of the Arappu thodu which lies in the Edavilangu village. This is a village to which there is neither road nor canal for communication. There is only 3 miles of sandy road which in the summer days cannot be used for walking from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. It is almost like a desert in the summer season. All the provisions and foodstuffs for this village will have to be carried by head loads and generally it has to be got down from a distance of 3 miles. Looking at the economic condition of the Village I will say that it is perhaps one of the poorest villages in Cochin. About 90 per cent of the population of that village are labourers and almost all the land-owners of the village are residing outside the village and they seldom go to see the sad plight of the villagers. From that village more than 15,000 rupees are collected in the shape of land tax every year, but unfortunately not a pie has been spent in the village by the Public Works Department. That has been the unfortunate and sad plight of the village, and I therefore request the Government to have some mercy on these poor people whose cry

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may not be so strong as the cry of the rich and influential people. At least out of mercy for these poor people Government may be pleased to do something in the matter of communication, so that they may be able to send their agricultural produce outside.

Now, with regard to the Arappu Thodu, I would request the Government to take that up immediately as a relief measure. There is already a canal there which has been out of use for the last 20 or 25 years. Now this is the proper time, when most of the villagers are suffering for want of food for the Government to take up the work. From the point of view of economy also this is the proper time, since the Government can get cheap labour. There is no necessity for any acquisition as the whole portion is poramboke. So, I humbly request the Government to take up this work immediately to give some relief to the poor villagers who are literally starving.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, it may not be quite correct to say that the Edavilangu village has no means of communication at all. This village is situated almost on the northern boundary of Cranganur. It is about 2 square miles in extent and it has already 4 miles of Panchayat roads.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* What is the population of this Village?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not know the population. But whatever be the population, if you have four miles of roads within two square miles, that is fairly large. These roads have not been metalled; but I understand that the Panchayat is trying to metal the roads. For connecting up Edavinlangu with the system of roads in Cranganur we have constructed the Velithodu bridge, and after the bridge has been constructed, I think, that even during dry weather there will be no difficulty at all for taking a car up to Edavilangu. But the road has to be metalled. That work the Panchayat is doing.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* That bridge is on the southern boundary of Edavilangu village. In continuation of the bridge we get a sandy road.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The roads have not been metalled. The Panchayat is taking up the matter to metal this portion of the road also. There is also another road leading Edavilangu to Pathinetteralam.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* No. There is no metalled road. It is only a lane.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* It is not a lane. It is a fairly wide road. If it is metalled, it can be used for traffic. I understand, the Panchayat are taking action to metal this road and I suppose they can do all these things necessary to make communication for this village. As regards the improvements and the extension of the Arappu Thodu mentioned by the other Hon'ble Member, I may say we are investigating the possibility of starting the work as a relief measure. I shall do my best to take up this work.

Mr. President : The kind of communication contemplated is a Panchayat work. Then, why should that be included under P. W. D.?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The work will be something greater in magnitude and the Panchayat will not be able to take up that work.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* What have you done by constructing the bridge ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* This was the only difficulty felt by the people.

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians-Cranganur):* The canal is more needed in that village.

Mr. President: Where there is a road, a canal is necessary, and where there is a canal, a road is necessary.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, Since there is no assurance forthcoming, I should like to explain the position further. Now the Chief Engineer says that communications already exist in that locality. I am afraid I have to contradict that statement. The Chief Engineer thinks that if a bridge is put up, we can take a car to that village. Now, there are only some old cars there costing about Rs. 75 which are driven more by human labour than by mechanical force. It is from my own personal experience that I am speaking this. I had to acquaint myself with the locality during the last elections. This was not stressed previously in the Council because it was not sure to which constituency this place belong. This was always being changed from one constituency to another. Now this has been added on to my constituency and it is of vital interest to me. The whole point is that since there is absolutely no single road connecting the locality with Cranganur, I do not see why at least one road maintained by the P. W. D. may not be made available so that access into and outside the village is made possible. I think the Government should do something in the matter of communication

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instead of asking the Panchayat to do the same. I withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 4

Completing the road from Komanthuruthu to Nettur ferry

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* Sir, I move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,99,095 for Communications—Original by Re. 1.*

(The urgent necessity of completing the road from Komanthuruthu to the Nettur ferry).

This motion is simply to point out to the Government the urgent necessity of completing the Komanthuruthu-Nettur road beginning from the Komanthuruthu bridge that was constructed, I believe, mainly for the purpose of providing communication from Kadavanthra and the subarban places to Nettur. This bridge was constructed between the small island of Komanthuruthu and Kadavanthra in order to provide a through route from the main land through the small island of Komanthuruthu to Nettur proper. In connection with this proposed road I understand that land acquisition works were completed as early as 1110. I speak subject to correction. I think it is a fact that it has been completed at least about 3 or 4 years ago.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* I do not think that any land acquisition has been effected in that area.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura):* Probably then, the whole distance is poramboke. The distance between the bridge and the Nettur ferry is very small and there is no land to be acquired. The bridge itself will become useless if this road is not completed. The island of Komanthuruthu is a small one and the population is very negligible. If the bridge has got any purpose, it is only to provide a through route from the main land of Kadavanthra to Nettur and other places. I therefore request the Government, especially in view of the fact that there is no expenditure for land acquisition and other incidental charges to begin with, to see that this small distance of road is constructed this year itself so that it may as well be a matter of relief to the unemployed poor of this locality.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, The proposal for constructing the bridge mentioned by the mover of this

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